

City College News

A newsletter for staff, faculty and alumni of George Brown College

APRIL 2006 VOL. 23 NO. 7

Two grads win Premier's Awards

The work of two George Brown College graduates who have helped improve the lives of Ontario women who are victims of assault as well as people who are in the last stages of life have been honoured by Ontario Premier's Awards.

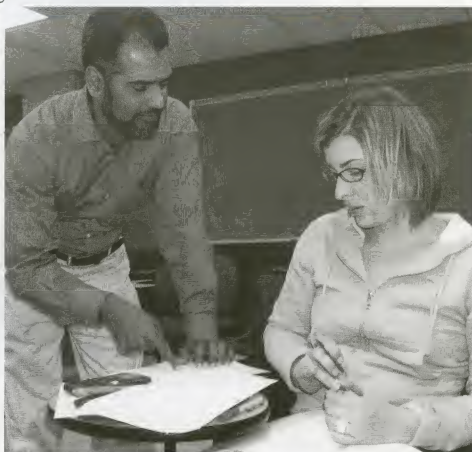
Queen's University professor **Dr. Deborah Dudgeon** was presented with her Premier's Award, which honours Ontario college graduates, in a ceremony in Sudbury on Feb. 20. Community activist **Beth Jordan** was ill and could not attend the ceremony.

A social activist fighting violence against women, racism, and oppression, Jordan is also the 2005 recipient of the YWCA Toronto Women of Distinction Award for social justice. She was responsible for stabilizing and expanding the Assaulted Women's Helpline into a province-wide service. She has consulted extensively with municipal, provincial and federal governments and police services and is active on a wide range of committees and coalitions, including the Chief Coroner of Ontario's

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Premier's Award winner Dr. Deborah Dudgeon, shown here with President Anne Sado at the Premier's Award banquet in Sudbury on Feb. 20, credits George Brown with starting her career in medicine. "When I was 20 I decided higher education was for the birds," she told banquet guests. "A few years later I decided to attend George Brown College and they set me on the path of my life."



BACK TO CLASS – Accounting professor Muhammad Rashid explains a point to second year marketing student Danielle Keller after their first post-faculty strike class on March 28. Keller worked on group projects during the three-week strike but found she needed help with accounting. "It's different in accounting, I can't just go through the text, I need a teacher." With only three weeks of scheduled classes left before the second of term Keller feels the pressure of catching up. "I was so scared to come back to school, I'm hoping the teachers will be generous."

Grads to face Canada's top dentist

George Brown graduates may want to brush their teeth extra carefully and floss before their convocation ceremony on June 14 – because they will be facing Canada's top dentist.

Dr. Peter Cooney, who is Chief Dental Officer for Health Canada, may be too busy delivering a keynote address that morning to offer any impromptu checkups – but it never hurts to be prepared.

Another speaker at convocation – which includes six ceremonies at the Hummingbird Centre spread over three days: June 13, 14, and 15 – will be Mary Gordon, founder and president of Roots of Empathy, a non-profit

organization that works in schools to increase empathy and reduce violence.

This year's honorary diploma recipient is Ratna Omidvar, executive director of the Maytree Foundation as well as the Toronto Region Immigrant Employment Council.

She will be presented an honorary diploma during the Community Worker Program segment of the ceremonies, at 7:30 p.m., on Wednesday, June 14, 2006.

For a schedule of convocation ceremonies and other information go to www.georgebrown.ca/convocation

Premier's Awards *(continued from page 1)*

Domestic Violence Death Review Committee – the only one of its kind in Canada.

Jordan, who was chosen as the award recipient in the Community Services category, currently operates her own management consulting business, focusing on anti-racism and anti-oppression training to help non-profit organizations become more culturally confident.

Dr. Dudgeon, a medical oncologist with a subspecialty in palliative care, is making a difference through her teaching, clinical work, ground-breaking oncology research, and tireless efforts to improve palliative care in Ontario. She is the W. Ford Connell Professor of Palliative Care Medicine, Professor of Medicine and Oncology at Queen's University, and Head of Palliative Medicine and Supportive Care at the Cancer Centre of Southeastern Ontario.

An international expert in dyspnea, (shortness of breath) in cancer patients, she has received numerous grants from Canada, the U.S., and overseas to pursue this important research. Last year, she was appointed Program Head for Palliative Care for Cancer Care Ontario. She was awarded the Premier's Award in the Health Sciences category.



New Chef in the City: Barbra-Joi Mitchell, a Grade 12 student at Philip Pocock Mitchell Secondary School shows off the omelet and poached eggs she made as part of the high school student cooking contest at George Brown on Feb. 28. It was the first time the college had hosted an individual student competition as well as a team competition. Mitchell now works part-time in a fast food restaurant but plans apply to a cooking program at George Brown. The contests were just part of a two day cooking extravaganza at the college's Chef School that it called Chefs in the City. Other events included a cooking competition for apprentice chefs and discussion panels on obesity among young people and the apprentice system for chefs and bakers.

ROLE CALL

CENTRE FOR COMMUNITY SERVICES & DEVELOPMENT

The Centre for Community Services & Development is located at the King Street campus, but its students and graduates can be found throughout the GTA and beyond. The Centre is part of the Community Services and Health Sciences Division. About 1300 full-time students are enrolled in the Centre's 10 full-time diploma and certificate programs. Students in all but one of these programs carry out required community-based field placements as part of their learning. Each year, some students broaden their experience by participating in international field placements.

Community Services programs have a broad range with an overall emphasis on developing knowledge and skills to help people who need social or supportive services. The Community Worker, Child and Youth Worker, Assaulted Women's and Children's Counsellor/Advocate, and Social Service Worker program help students learn to meet the needs of people in the community. Students in these programs have field placements in schools, women's shelters, hospitals, group homes for children and adults, and a wide range of other settings. Career and Work Counsellor students learn

to help people to find employment and are often making a mid-life career change themselves. The Behavioural Science Technology program relies on knowledge about learning to create change for people who have a variety of life challenges. The Centre's newest program, the Autism and Behavioural Science Graduate Certificate, is a one-year program that teaches students to apply specific learning strategies in working with children who have autism.

American Sign Language (ASL) is an essential part of the curriculum in three other programs. Students in the Intervenor program learn a modified form of ASL and two other methods of communicating with people who are Deafblind. These students also learn mobility-enhancing techniques and can sometimes be seen practicing around the campus and in the neighborhood. The ASL-English Interpreter program prepares students for careers as interpreters, facilitating communication between Deaf and hearing people. The Pre-Interpreter program [which will change its name to ASL and Deaf Studies in September 2006] provides intensive instruction in ASL.

Some special features and recent highlights in the Centre include:

- Every year, Centre students do field placements in over 700 community settings,

including over 90% of the United Way-funded agencies

- About 300 students have participated in international field placements for academic credit. There are well-established placement programs in Jamaica and Cuba, as well as pilot placement projects in India and Samoa.
- The Centre was the lead in the recently-completed project by five colleges to develop the Autism and Behavioural Science program curriculum in English and French, for both classroom and online delivery
- The Centre has hosted the PEN Canada Lecturer-in-Residence for three years; Mir Hussein Mahdavi is currently at the college in this role
- The Intervenor program's annual Open House to showcase students' work was held on April 5th at the St. James campus
- Faculty in the Centre have been involved in externally-funded applied research, curriculum development, establishing professional standards and competencies, international community development, and many other projects that link the college closely to the fields we serve

The office for the Centre for Community Services & Development has recently moved to room 440E at 200 King St. E.

Our winning programs, staff, and publications



George Brown program, administrator win provincial awards

George Brown's Assistant Cook Extended Training (ACET) program won a 2006 award for program innovation from the Association of Colleges of Applied Arts and Technology of Ontario (ACAAO), and Community Services Chair Georgia Quartaro won the annual award given to college administrators – the Ontario College Administrative Staff Association/Doug Light Award. On hand at the ACAATO Conference in Sudbury on Feb. 20 to receive the awards were: (from left) ACET project manager Tony Priolo, President Anne Sado, Georgia Quartaro, and Access Centre Chair Gerry Conrad.



George Brown dominates Ontario college communications awards

George Brown staff who work in communications and alumni development have every reason to smile. The college dominated the annual Ontario college communications awards, winning 25 per cent of the top honours and one honourable mention – more awards than any of the other 23 colleges in the province. George Brown won Trillium awards for its annual report, continuing education calendar, continuing education promotional campaign, and alumni e-newsletter, as well as an honourable mention for the new theatre school opening. From left are Senior Communications Officer Neil McGillivray, Alumni Officer Kiddy Mengesha, George Brown Advancement Vice-President Anne Smiley, Alumni Officer Rosa Duran, and Continuing Education Marketing Manager Cheryl Dunn. The awards were given out at the annual meeting of the College Committee for Advancement in Sudbury on Feb. 21

Q&A with President Anne Sado

Q Looking back on the past year, what were some of the most memorable highlights for you?

As I look back, I am very proud of many things – so to choose one or two is very difficult! I will however choose “a few” that will help highlight some of our activities. First, I’m very proud of the commitment we made to the Academic Strategy and the commitment “see to ‘making it happen’” We’ve moved forward in all of the key action areas including the enhanced communication projects, outcomes based learning, performance management, general education and key process and quality improvements. I realize the stresses the faculty strike has placed on our academic processes and on our community as a whole, but I hope we can move forward and continue our commitment to the full implementation of the Academic Strategy. I’m also very proud of the new learning opportunities we’ve made available for students. From a programming perspective, we have introduced the new applied degree in Construction Science Management, Health Informatics, the Integrated Culinary Management Program and revamped Italian Culinary Arts Program. We have new spaces – the Young Centre for the Performing Arts for the Theatre Program; the Interprofessional Learning Clinic at Casa Loma for Health Sciences; and the Learning Commons at Casa Loma Campus, to name but a few. From a community perspective, we have added new outreach programs, including the new pre-apprenticeship program introduced at Regent Park. I’ll end with a most memorable moment. I can still vividly replay in my mind the first performance of the GBC choir at the Royal York Hotel during President’s Breakfast. I’ll never forget their two wonderful songs – especially “Downtown” – their beautiful voices and the enthusiastic and spontaneous standing ovation. Great memories all!

Q What are some of the things you’re looking forward to?

This year I’m looking forward to building on the foundations we have created and building on the “power of one” I believe that this year we’ll start seeing the tangible benefits resulting from the Academic Strategy implementation. I also look forward to seeing our new spaces used – with student productions at the Young Centre and shaping the new space at the Pasquale Brothers building. I look forward to solidifying our plans for other space expansions. I am excited about getting increased support from the government as part of the Reaching Higher Plan and the opportunities that will afford us to improve the quality of our student’s educational experience at GBC. In general, I am looking forward to strengthening our connections with all our stakeholders – students, staff, industry, community and government.



CAMPING AT COLLEGE:

Special Events Planning students (from left) Maggie Pytel, Bick Trinh, and Jocelyn Blandford dressed up for a special presentation about eco-tourism in February. Wendy Grater of Blackfeather wilderness adventure company told students in the hospitality management program that eco-tourism is growing. “We have a very special opportunity in Canada,” she said.



NEW BUILDING FOR ST. JAMES CAMPUS:

George Brown recently bought this four-story building at the southeast corner of King St. E. and Frederick St. – kitty-corner from the main St. James Campus building. The former cheese store will be renovated for college use.